

R E V I E W.

Saturday, May 2. 1713.

TRuth alone ought to make Men bold; but this is an Age when the less Truth Men make use of, the more Assurance they take to supply the want. This relates to a certain German, who will easily know his own Picture when he sees it, and cannot but acknowledge he is the man; who, to propagate the universal Clamour, is'd upon the Pretence of our *Spanish Trade* being run away with by the *French*, goes about, with his mouth open, from Coffee-House to Coffee-House, telling at the *Review*, for saying, That the *French* want Wooll; and tells every body in so many Words, that they have a vast Tract of Land in *France*, which is rich in Pasture, and produces great quantities of Sheep, and that they have as good Wooll as we in *England*, and enough of it too.

It is true, he very prudently avoids the two grand questions, which are so natural in such a Case, that he would think no body could mention such a thing, that should not be prepared to answer them; (*viz.*) *Where this Country lies, and in what part of France?* *What quantity of this Wooll they have?* The Truth is, the forward Gentleman owns he never was in *France*, but has hear'd some People, *whose Opinion, seems, he lays a great stress upon*, say so; and he takes himself the Carrier of the Story, whether true or False.

Tho' this foolish Assertion requires very little Notice, yet it may be necessary to throw a few stumbling-Blocks in the way of its spreading in this credulous Age; such as, *First*, How long the *French* have had these Sheep, and this stock of Wooll? Either they had it always, or it some time or other began: *If always*, Why then have they not *always* had as good Manufactures as We? For no Man can charge the *French* with any want of Industry. And why did not the diligent *Flemings*, when we stop'd the Exportation of our Wooll to them, supply themselves from *France*, which they would have done at any Price, rather than have lost their whole Trade, *they did*, and as I have observ'd already? *Secondly*, the *French* had not this Wooll always, when did it come to them, by what means, and from what country? And, *Lastly*, How comes it to pass that we never hear'd of it before? Surely the Peace has

not brought it to them; there are no Jacobite Sheep gone to *France* that ever I hear'd of.

It is most certain, that the *French* from the beginning, and especially for a Hundred Years past, have endeavoured to Encourage Woollen Manufactures among themselves as much as possible; and who can blame them? And it was on this Account that (1.) They used so many ways to get Wooll from us formerly, without which they knew it was impossible: And, (2.) Laid such high Duties and Prohibitions upon our Manufactures, as very much less'n'd the Trade from us to them: But this last Practice was particularly occasion'd by the Progress of the first; I mean by their getting so great a quantity of our Wooll; which I have been told, was indeed so great, that in the latter end of the Reign of King *Charles II.* and in the Reign of *K. James II.* they boasted in *France* of having 167000 Packs of Wooll from *Britain* and *Ireland* in one Year. Having such an immense Supply, and depending upon its Continuance, it is no wonder if they fell into Manufactures, and discouraged the Importation of our Goods. This vast Exportation of our Wooll was convey'd by the three Methods of which I spoke before; (*viz.*) *Clandestine Trade* from Hence, *Ditto* from *Ireland*, and an open free Trade with *Scotland*.

Were these three ways equally Practicable now, the *French* would not be wanting to themselves to improve in our Manufactures; and it is easy to prove, That altho' they have too much of our Wooll still carried out to them; yet the ways of doing it are not so many as before; for *Scotland* is effectually stop'd, and the *Rumney-Marsh Trade* is rendered much more difficult than formerly; what they do in *Ireland* I cannot say, I wish care were taken on that side.

But to bring this down to our Case, even when the *French* had this vast quantity of Wooll from us; altho' they did make a great quantity of Goods, and more than ever before, yet they never could make, *even then*, the quantity which they wanted for their own Consumption, but still bought great quantities from *England*, as well directly as by way of *Holland*, and the Rivers; so that they were far from

from being able to supply Foreign Markets; for no People would send their own Goods away, when they must be obliged to come to us to supply their own necessary Demands for more.

If this were so, when they had that prodigious quantity of Wooll from us, and that Wooll is not now supplied, then it must follow they are *less* able to supply themselves now, than they were before, and consequently in no Condition to export to *Spain*, and supplant us, which is the Argument I am now upon — Can any Man argue so absurdly as to say, They can supplant us in *Spain*, by sending those very Goods thither, which they are obliged to buy of us, for their own necessary Uses; or would they come to us to buy Woollen Manufactures for themselves, if they had enough to supply a Foreign Market with?

But an Objection is brought in, (*viz.*) They have the *Spanish* Wooll; and it is to be proved, that they take off greater quantities of *Spanish* Wooll than ever they did.

Now if I should grant this, tho' I do not see it prov'd, all that can be made of it is, They make a greater quantity of fine *Spanish* Druggets than they did; and yet we see, now Trade begins to open, they give vast Commissions to *England* for those very Goods, which they always made at Home, as well as now. *O! But they make fine broad Cloath with it, as good as we do! If this were true, the Consequence might argue, That they might hurt our Turkey Trade; but what is this to the Spanish Trade! What quantity of Spanish Cloaths are there sent from England to New Spain in a Year! Very few, if any at all.*

But what is this to the *Colchester* Bayes, Sayes, Serges, Perpets, &c. The Good which carry the whole Weight of the *Spanish* Trade, which have no *Spanish* Wooll in them, and are made of that Wooll which is particular as well for fineness, as for the length of the Staple; and which I affirm no Country in *Europe* can supply but our selves? These are the Goods with which we carry on the *Spanish* Trade; and if the *French* cannot rival us in this, they cannot hurt us at all.

The way, therefore, for us to secure the *French* from Encroaching upon us in our Trade, especially in *Spain*, is for us to take some new, and more effectual Method to prevent the Exportation of our Wooll; if this be done, let the Peace be as bad as it will, the *French* can do us little Harm; and if this be not done, let the Peace have been as good as you could have desired, the *French* would ruin us.

I am told now, That such vast quantities of Wooll are carried away from *Ireland* to *France*, that tho' at the same time we have a glut of Wooll in *England*, and the Price prodigiously low, there is little Wooll to be had there, and the Price rising: If this be the Case, while we stand raving at second and third Causes, and crying out of the *French* taking our Trade away; we forget to look into our own Home Mistakes, which are the immediate ruin of our Trade. The thing is a Mistake, the *French* are not taking

our Trade away, it is we are giving it away; we may be willing enough to cut our Throats in Trade and so are other Nations, who are better Friends to us than the *French*; but here we put the Knife into their Hands. Upon the whole, I lay down this Alternative, and believe every one's Experience will first or last join in with it.

Keep your own Wooll from the *French*, they do you no harm in the Woollen Manufactures which we carry on the Trade to *Spain*.

If you do not keep your own Wooll from the *French*, they will ruin not your *Spanish* Trade only, but all the Trade you have in the World of that kind.

The free export of Wooll from *Scotland* is effectually stop'd, the quantity from *England* is lessened, and that from *Ireland* may; which if done, I think my third Article is effectually proved; (*viz.*) *the French are less able to make our Woollen Manufactures NOW, than they were before the War.* This naturally introduces and proves the Fourth Consequence, (*viz.*)

4. *That the French are not able, with all the help of the whole World can give them, to make so many Woollen Manufactures as they want for themselves, but must yearly buy great Quantities from us.*

When I say, all the help the whole World give them, I mean of Wooll, and I mean all the World but the Queen's Dominions, *there shall be room for Caval.* The thing is apparent in it when they had so vast a quantity of Wooll from us 167000 Packs in a Year, tho', I say, I do not say the quantity, but only have heard so; yet even to my certain Knowledge, for I was then very much concern'd in that Trade, we sent vast quantities of our Woollen Manufactures into *France* — And what has now been the Case all this War? How can such immense quantities of Woollen Goods to be sent to *Holland*, and to *Leghorn*, more than ever the *Dutch*, or the *Italians* could ever before take? Whence was it? I know some made loud bluffs from the abundance of their Ignorance, of the mighty Advantage of our Trade to *Holland* and the quantities of our Woollen Goods they took off; but know the *Dutch* Trade is to us a very gainful Trade, and to them to; and they do take off very great quantities of our Woollen Goods: But had not the *Dutch* an open Trade with *France*, which we would have enough thus up; and was not all the *French* demand for *English* Goods supplied privately thro' *Amsterdam*, especially to *Meizen Lorrain*? Let any Man examin whether the like Quantity will go to *Holland* now, when the *French* Trade will be open; he will soon see the Case.

If then the *French* never could, and now cannot make Woollen Goods enough for themselves, as they ever did, and still must take great Quantities from us, for their own Use: How shall they make Quantities to supply other Nations, and so Encroach on our *Spanish* Trade?

Thus I think my four Propositions effectually stated and proved.